

Message Text

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71

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 T-03 OMB-01 RSR-01 /121 W

----- 104892

R 201011 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6884

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL SEOUL 1705

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NK, FI, SW, DA

SUBJ: NORDIC RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA

REF: A. STOCKHOLM 0946 B. HELSINKI 0689 C. SEOUL 1601 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: MOFA OFFICIAL HAS INDICATED ROKG REALIZES NORDIC RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA CANNOT BE PREVENTED BUT HOPES ROK RETAINS ENOUGH INFLUENCE TO DELAY RECOGNITION WHERE POSSIBLE FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN MARCH 20 DISCUSSION OF RECOGNITION OF NK BY NORDICS, MOFA UN SECTION CHIEF LEE TOLD EMBOFF THAT MOFA IS MORE OR LESS RESIGNED TO LIKELIHOOD THAT NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING WILL PRODUCE COMMUNIQUE CALLING FOR RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA BUT THAT QUESTION OF TIMING IS IMPORTANT TO ROK. LEE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT COMMUNIQUE WOULD NOT MEAN AUTOMATIC AND IMMEDIATE RECOGNITION OF NORTH BY ALL NORDIC GOVERNMENTS. ALTHOUGH SWEDEN AND FINLAND MAY NOW APPARENTLY BE WRITTEN OFF, LEE FEELS THE ROK AND ITS FRIENDS SHOULD STILL TRY TO PERSUADE DENMARK AND NORWAY TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE UNGA TO EXTEND RECOGNITION

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TION TO NORTH KOREA.

2. LEE COULD NOT SAY WHAT STEPS THE ROKG MIGHT NOW TAKE WITH REGARD TO RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA BY THE NORDICS. FONMIN KIM HAS REPEATED TO AMBASSADOR HIS REMARKS REPORTED REFTEL (C) THAT RECOGNITION OF NORTH BY SWEDEN WILL MEAN SWEDEN IS NO LONGER NEUTRAL AND RAISES DOUBTS AS TO PROPRIETY OF ITS REMAINING ON NNSC. HOWEVER, MOFA HAS APPPARENTLY NOT DECIDED WHAT TO DO IF PYONGYANG SHOULD SEND AN AMBASSADOR TO STOCKHOLM. ACCORDING TO LEE, THE NORDIC COUNTRIES DO NOT FIT EXACTLY THE ROK' S CURRENT CRITERIA EITHER FOR APPLICATION OR FOR NONAPPLICATION OF THE HALLSTEIN DOCTRINE.

3. THE ROKG' S ATTITUDE TOWARD COPENHAGEN IS BEING INFLUENCED BY THE FACT THAT DENMARK HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY THE WESTERN EUROPEAN GROUP TO CHAIR THE FIRST COMMITTEE AT THE 28 TH UNGA, WHERE ANY DEBATE ON THE KOREAN QUESTION WOULD TAKE PLACE. THE ROK CHARGE IN COPENHAGEN HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DEVELOP THE BEST RELATIONS POSSIBLE WITH THE DANISH GOVERNMENT, IN CASE DEBATE BECOMES INEVITABLE THIS FALL, MEANING PERHAPS THAT HE IS NOT TO BE TOO AGGRESSIVE ON THE RECOGNITION ISSUE.

HABIB

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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